

LIAISON

CONFIDENTIAL

14 January 1955

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[redacted], Chief
Mediterranean Bureau, FBIS
Post Office Box 1
Kyrenia, Cyprus

Subject: Voice of Arabs

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 1954 explaining the circumstances surrounding the transfer of coverage of subject broadcast to the BBC. I fully concur in your action and recognize that if we are in any way dissatisfied with the accuracy of BBC coverage we should protest to them and maintain the consistency of our coverage division.

As you know, we have been doing some thinking about what we could do if the situation in North Africa deteriorates further or if strong nationalistic movements crystallize out of the present fluid situation. There are a number of questions to be answered before we can draw any firm plans, such as: (a) Are there nationalistic radio transmitters important enough to monitor? (b) Are any of the clandestine and pseudo-clandestine broadcasts in Arabic to North Africa unmonitorable in either Cyprus or London? (c) If we were to maintain a small monitoring station in Africa, could we find a good reception site which would also provide communications back to Washington? (d) Will we be able to provide monitors in the several dialects of the North African peoples? I mention this only since I would appreciate your thinking of this matter too, and offering any advice that you can. Also, I think it would be worthwhile if we had an Arabic monitor on your staff who was qualified in one or more of the North African dialects, which you might bear in mind when recruiting in the future.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Chief, FBIS

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